IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 1: "METHOD FOR FORMING VARIABLE LENGTH INSTRUCTIONS IN A PROCESSING SYSTEM"

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, lines 19-21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

"Figures 2A and 2B show exemplary formats for parameters of each of the respective types UmNC, SmNC. In these examples, each of the parameters comprises two bytes. Specifically:"

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 23 to page 9, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

"Preferably the opcode portion of the instruction is formatted to inherently specify the number of parameters and their characteristics. For example, an opcode for an ADD instruction, where the ALU 16 adds an operand A to an operand B and where the sum is stored in an address C, would include three parameters - one for each of the operands A and B, and address C. Note that, for example, A and B may have values that are compressible and C may be an index from a base address, which is potentially a compressible number. Further, the definition of the instruction itself will specify the pertinent characteristics of each of these parameters. As another example, an opcode for an ENTER instruction, where the processor 10 is to decrement the stack pointer value SP in register 124 to an address in the stack that will provide memory space represented by a value M, would include the single unsigned parameter M. The size of M may be compressed, as this is an index to the current address located by SP. The definition of the instruction itself will also specify the other pertinent characteristics of the parameter M."